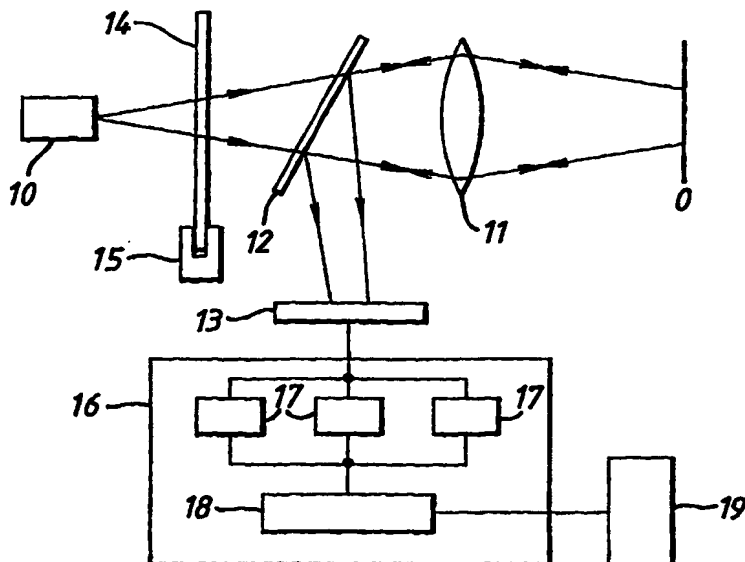




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G02B 21/00, G06T 5/50, G01B 11/24		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/45745
			(43) International Publication Date: 15 October 1998 (15.10.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB98/00988 (22) International Filing Date: 3 April 1998 (03.04.98) (30) Priority Data: 9706843.1 4 April 1997 (04.04.97) GB 9726485.7 15 December 1997 (15.12.97) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ISIS INNOVATION LIMITED [GB/GB]; 2 South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3UB (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WILSON, Tony [GB/GB]; 18 Jeune Street, Oxford OX4 1BN (GB). NEIL, Mark, Andrew, Aquilla [GB/GB]; 22 Poplar Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LB (GB). JUSKAITIS, Rimvydas [LT/GB]; 3 Marriott Close, Oxford OX2 8NT (GB). (74) Agent: SCHLICH, George, William; Mathys & Squire, 100 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8AL (GB).			(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: MICROSCOPY IMAGING APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract

An object is illuminated by a light source (10) and a periodic pattern of transparent and non-transparent stripes is superimposed onto the object (0). At least three images are recorded at different spatial phases of the pattern by means of a microscope of shallow focal depth, and a three-dimensional image containing only in-focus detail is then derived from the recorded images by image processing which removes the periodic pattern. An illumination mask (14) or the interference fringes of two coherent beams generate the periodic pattern. The different spatial phases are generated by shifting the mask or adjusting the temporal phase difference of the coherent beams.